

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
(Norfolk Division)**

**MICHAEL HAIGH**

**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**CA # \_\_\_\_\_**

**PB MARES**

**GROUP WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN**

**SERVE:**

**MARY ALDRICH**

**PBMARES, LLP**

**701 TOWN CENTER DR., STE 900**

**NEWPORT NEWS VA 23606**

**Defendant.**

**COMPLAINT FOR  
DISABILITY BENEFITS UNDER ERISA**

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. Plaintiff's claims against Defendant are filed pursuant to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1001 *et. seq.* (herein "ERISA").

2. Plaintiff seeks an Order that clarifies a plan beneficiary's rights to past and future benefits under the terms of an employee welfare plan. Specifically, the Plaintiff seeks: a) a declaration and enforcement of rights under the long-term disability insurance policies at issue and/or the employee benefit plan (which is an "employee welfare benefit plan" as defined by ERISA), b) a reinstatement of benefits, c) the payment of all back benefits due with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, d) the enforcement of rights under the long-term disability

insurance policy and/or the employee benefits plan, e) the clarification of rights to future benefits under the long-term disability insurance policy and/or the employee benefits plan pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(1)(B) and (a)(3), and f) an award of attorney's fees and costs.

3. Venue and jurisdiction are proper pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(f). At all times relevant to this claim, the Defendant's corporate headquarters were located at the address noted above.

### **PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff is a former employee of PBMAres LLP ("The Employer"). While employed there, and while covered by the Group Long Term Disability Plan for employees of The Employer, Plaintiff became disabled as that term is defined by The Plan.

5. PBMAres LLP Group Welfare Benefit Long Term Disability Plan ("The Plan") is an employee welfare benefit plan established under ERISA. Defendant is responsible for the actions of each of its fiduciaries and "deemed fiduciaries."

### **THE EMPLOYEE WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN**

6. At all times relevant Plaintiff was employed by The Employer, which is Headquartered in Virginia, and was a plan participant in the Plan established by The Employer under ERISA.

7. The Employer is the Plan Administrator.

8. The Plan Administrator has delegated disability claims administration to Cigna ("The Insurance Company.")

9. The Employer and The Insurance Company are fiduciaries pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1133(2) and 29 C.F.R. § 2560.503-1(g) (1999) and/or “deemed fiduciaries” pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A) and 29 C.F.R. § 2560.503-1(g)(2) (1999)..

10. The Insurance Company is responsible for conducting any ERISA mandated claim evaluation and final review rests with The Insurance Company and with no other entity.

11. The Insurance Company, upon information and belief, has made all of the decisions regarding Plaintiff’s claim for disability benefits in this case.

### **HISTORY OF THE CLAIM**

12. Plaintiff worked for The Employer until he became disabled.

13. At all times relevant The Plaintiff has met the Plan’s definition of disability

14. The Plan provides for lost income benefits.

15. Plaintiff timely gave notice of disability and applied for disability benefits under the Plan.

16. On July 12, 2017 the Plan issued an “Adverse Benefit Decision” on Plaintiff’s claim for benefits.

17. The Plan has violated the plain language of the Plan; 29 U.S.C. 1133 (Claims procedure); and 29 U.S.C. 1104 (fiduciary duties).

18. The Plaintiff has exhausted pre-litigation remedies and that process ended by way of a “Final Denial Letter” sent by The Insurance Company on July 2, 2019.

19. The Plaintiff is entitled to long-term disability benefits under the Plan, including past due benefits; future benefits; pre-judgment interest; post-judgment interest and attorney’s fees pursuant to ERISA.

20. The Plaintiff is entitled to these benefits because the benefits are permitted under the policy; The Plaintiff has satisfied all conditions precedent to be eligible to receive the benefits and Plaintiff has not waived or otherwise relinquished the entitlement to the benefits.

### **RELIEF SOUGHT**

The Plaintiff requests that this Court enter an Order declaring the following:

1. No deference be granted to the decision of the Plan to deny benefits.
2. That the Plaintiff is entitled to long-term disability benefits under the policy.
3. That the Plaintiff is entitled to payment of past long-term disability benefits and reinstatement to monthly benefits under The Plan.
4. That the Plaintiff is entitled to payment of pre- and post-judgment interest.
5. That the Plaintiff is entitled to payment of attorney's fees and costs.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Haigh*  
By Counsel

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/s/  
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